Washington, D.C. – Congressman Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. (GA-02) today praised the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the recent announcement of a \$333 million contract to build a new hospital at Fort Benning.

The award, announced Monday by the Savannah District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, was made to Turner Construction Company, Inc., of Huntsville, Ala., for the design and construction of a 745,000-square-foot hospital, almost twice the size of the current 393,000 square-foot facility.

"Monday's announcement brings us one step closer to seeing the new hospital become a reality," Bishop said. "The goal is to provide our soldiers, our veterans, and their families with a modern medical facility that will offer the highest quality of patient care and this contract is a milestone in the process of achieving that goal."

Design and construction is likely to begin shortly after the Corps of Engineers issues a notice-to-proceed in October and will span 1,200 calendar days. An estimated completion date is set for summer 2013.

For more information about the contract or the hospital, please contact Billy Birdwell, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Public Affairs Officer at (912) 652-5014; or by e-mail at billy.birdwell@us.army.mil.